



Weather Forecast		Today	High:47 Low:29
Saturday	High:59 Low:41	Sunday	High:62 Low:33

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post



Free tickets

Free tickets for the premier of "The Rookie" are available today at the Post Exchange from 11 a.m.-noon and 4-6 p.m. Although the movie is free to the public, tickets are required. The movie will be shown Saturday at 2 p.m. in Normandy Theater. For a complete movie schedule, go to page 14.

March 22, 2002

Proudly serving the Home of America's Army

Vol. 45, No. 12



Post/19th PAD

Members of the 1st BCT Quick Response Force stand prepared to respond to a protest.



Post/19th PAD

Members of the 1st BCT Quick Response Team rush into position as they respond to a simulated violent protest outside the gate.

Civil Affairs

Civilians challenge soldier presence

By Jeremy Heckler

19th PAD

FORT IRWIN, Calif. - Sometimes in war the hardest victories are fought not on any military battlefield, but in the hearts and minds of the native population.

At the National Training Center, the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (Mech) was put to the test by the people of Mojavia. At stake was their very presence in the country.

Civil Affairs ensures that problems with the local population are kept at a minimum.

"We handle anything that has to do with civilians on the battlefield and may cause any problems with

the commander completing his mission," said SSgt. Donald David, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Civil Affairs cultivates relationships with the local population and leadership in the area. During their first week at NTC, the task force commander met with leaders and addressed their concerns. In addition, the 1st Brigade Combat Team encountered a number of incidents with local citizenry that could have affected their conditions in the Dust Bowl. In one incident, a soldier treated a Mojavian who had passed out in front of the gate. Other incidents are not as friendly.

"Sometimes we're on the negative side of things and we run into a town where we have to arrest someone in the town and sometimes that will put the town against us," said David.

The Devil Brigade experienced a violent protest the day before they deployed to the engagement area. A peaceful protest outside the fence line turned violent, as the rioters moved onto the next gate, a Mojavian collapsed amid the sound of a gunshot. The unit made a number of tough choices in order to maintain the welfare of the soldiers as well as maintain the goodwill of the citizenry. In the end, medics treated the civilian wounded after the protest broke up, protecting them from an unruly crowd. The work they did not only saved a life but the goodwill generated helped them gain information on the People's Parumpian Guard from a relative of the injured Mojavian.

The encounters do not end when the brigade heads out for battle.

"They go to the Tactical Operations Center looking for food and we get them right out of there," said Spec. Nicholas Funk, 415th Civil Affairs Bn. Funk said they try to help the natives by providing them contact information to the Red Cross and other relief organizations so they can receive some sort of assistance that the Army cannot provide.

"We have a whole host of networks from the International Red Cross to Feed the Children which we have a lot of contact with so that whenever we have a situation in a country we try to find out who is there so that we can coordinate with them and get aid to the civilians who need it," said David.

David said while he was in Kosovo he saw many situations which were similar to the NTC scenarios.

"In Kosovo I saw children playing with unexploded ordnance and wells poisoned as well as people who were run out of their homes and new families moved in," said David. In many situations, the matters are investigated and turned over to the proper authorities, such as in the case of the evicted family.

For the Civil Affairs soldiers working in the community, it is not just about the task force being successful, but helping members of other countries.

"My goal is that I can leave the country I've deployed to better than I found it," said David.



Post/19th PAD

Mojavian physically harass soldiers outside the gates in a simulated protest held last week at the National Training Center. The 1st Brigade Combat Team was challenged on the proper way to handle the protest as it turned violent.

Civilians receive first hand look at NTC

By Steven Cooke

19th PAD

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Civilian members of the Fort Riley community and its surrounding cities visited the National Training Center, March 17-19, as part of Operation Desert Partner.

"Desert Partner is an opportunity for Fort Riley to invite our community to come to NTC to see oldiers train and experience what soldiers goes through," said Maj. Todd Livick, Fort Riley Public Affairs Officer.

The civilians that participated were Ed Klimek, Manhattan City naylor, Gary Becker, director of

information management, Fort Riley, Ron Bramlage, chief executive officer of Bramlage Investments and Harry Hardy, chief of the civil law division, Fort Riley.

While at NTC, the group got the Army experience of wearing Army issued uniforms, roaming the Mojave Desert in the back of a Humvee and watching soldiers train in simulated battles against each other.

"We saw some amazing training," said Bramlage. "It was an amazing display of power. I have a greater respect for the soldiers. It was a valuable opportunity and I'm glad I had it."

"I've been working at Fort Riley a while and it's not until you

come out here and see the soldiers training that you understand what they do," said Hardy.

"I thought it was extremely overwhelming," said Becker. "It was happening all around us—the smoke, the blasts."

"To me this is what the Army is all about," said Klimek. "I wish more people could see this. It's really something special."

Each participant had a favorite part of the day.

Climbing inside the tank was Becker's favorite. "It's 70 tons, \$4.6 million and there's no room to breathe! You have to be a very well-trained soldier to operate it in combat."

Klimek enjoyed "getting a hold

of the dimensions of what's going on here and having the general explain the battles and what could happen in a real situation. It's all kind of one big chess game," he said.

"I enjoyed the whole thing," said Hardy. "Seeing soldiers doing what they do."

"It was nice to be behind the scenes," said Bramlage. "I enjoyed the whole day: the heavy equipment, the air support, everybody moving together, the force on force action."

Transportation for the group was an open top Humvee. The day was cold and extremely

See Partner Page 2



Post/Kenehan

SFC Dan Picaro, a chaplain assistant observer/controller from NTC, briefs 1st BCT chaplains and chaplain assistants prior to deploying to "the Box."

New program unveiled

Secretary of Army announces regions for transformation of post management

Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White announced the next phase in the Army's concept to create a more efficient and effective corporate management structure for Army installations worldwide March 19.

oversee installation management.

"Our intent is to streamline headquarters, create more agile and responsive staffs, reduce layers of review and approval and allow commanders to focus on their mission," White said, speaking

director and staff for their respective region:

Northeast: Fort Monroe, Hampton, Va.
Southeast: Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Ga.

Northwest: Rock Island Arsenal, Rock

After extensive analysis, these locations were selected in order to minimize turbulence on the civilian workforce and take advantage of facilities and skilled personnel available in the Major Army Command elements stationed at these

regional directorates will oversee the services provided on installations that support day-to-day operations and well-being. Fort Riley falls in the Northwest region.

Regionalization of these services will

Nuclear Biological Chemical Training at NTC may save lives later

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

FORT IRWIN, CA - While at the National Training Centers soldiers undergo many training exercises. One such exercise is of simulated Nuclear, Biological and Chemical attack.

“This type of training is very important,” said Spec. Anthony Cora, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team. “Especially with what’s going on in the world, we have to be chemically ready.”

The exercise lasted an entire day, progressing through different Mission Orientated Protective Posture suit levels.

The MOPP suit consists of a jacket, pants, rubber boots and gloves and a protective mask. Soldiers carry the jacket, pants, boots and gloves in a sack on their back and the mask in a carrying case strapped to their leg.

The suit is worn over the regular uniform. There are five different MOPP levels that require a soldier to wear different pieces of

the suit.

“MOPP level zero is the suit is carried by the soldier,” explained Spec. Orlando Torres, crane operator, 568th Engineer Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion.

“MOPP level one, soldiers wear the jacket and pants. At MOPP level two, the boots are added. At level three, the mask and at level four, the gloves.”

Soldiers woke up at MOPP level zero the morning of the training.

“We went to MOPP one at 1 p.m.,” said Torres. “Then to MOPP level two and then to MOPP level four at 7 p.m.”

As the day went on, soldiers continued with their regular duties like the cooks for HHC, 1st BCT.

“It’s really hot while working on the burners,” said Spec. Quatrice Humes. “We have the heat from outside, the burners in the kitchen and we have the MOPP suits on.”

At 7 p.m. alarms sounded to alert everyone NTC was “under attack”. No chemicals were actually used but everyone responded as such.

Everyone stopped what they

were doing and hurriedly put on the protective masks and gloves.

By this time soldiers were finding it very uncomfortable to continue.

“I feel like I’m about to pass out,” said PFC Kevin Bell, armament repair, Company B, 101st Forward Support Battalion. “I can’t take much more of this. I’m kind of feeling claustrophobic.”

“It is really hard to breathe with it,” said PFC LaTorya Mann, cook, HHC, 1st BCT. “The biggest problem is how hot it gets.”

“It’s hard to communicate,” said Spec. Laressa Daugherty

Overall though the soldiers feel the training is worth it and understand its importance.

“It is uncomfortable,” said Pvt. Edward Pelle, chemical operations specialist, 172nd Chemical, “but at this level of protection you have to deal with it.”

“You have to be ready,” said Pvt. Michael Cardoso, chemical operations specialist, 172nd Chemical, “because you never know. If this was a real attack, you could be dead.”

“It’s important to stay alive,”

said Spec. Anthony Roberts, small arms repair, Company B 101st FSB. “Or at least surviving combat.”

Another part of the exercise was to learn how to detect what chemicals were being used in the attack.

“First, we used the 256 kit to determine what kinds of agents were used,” said Cora. “Then we did the unmasking procedure.”

The unmasking procedure involves a soldier taking his mask off for five minutes, exposing himself to the atmosphere the putting the mask back for ten minutes as the other soldiers observe how he reacts.

“We then performed another 256 kit and sent the information to the chain of command,” explained Cora.

The NBC NCO was pleased with the exercise. “The training went well,” he said. Others agreed.

“The exercise went fairly well,” said Spec. James Laughlin, equipment operator, 568th Eng. Co., “Because of the training, we will know exactly what to do Even down to the lowest private.”



Post/Cooke

Harry Hardy (top) and Gary Becker, participants in Operation Desert Partner, get a close look at an M1A1 Abrams Tank while at the NTC. The two civilians spent three days with the 1st BCT.

Partner

continued from page 1

windy, not making it the most ideal environment to be in.

“It was my first time in a Humvee. The Humvee is very comfortable,” said Bramlage jokingly.

“The 60 mile per hour winds made it different, but I can’t complain. I’m only out here one day. The soldiers are out here all the time,” he added.

On the last day of the program, the group stopped by a kind of landmark at NTC. Right outside the gate are hundreds of rocks painted with the different symbols of the units that have trained at the NTC. As the gentlemen were taking personal photographs of themselves, they requested that the soldiers get in the pictures with them.

The Operation Desert Partner program is supposed to help bring Fort Riley and it’s surrounding community closer together. Mission completed.

NCO Ball planned May 23

The Fort Riley Noncommissioned Officers’ Annual Ball is scheduled to be held May 23 at 6 p.m. at Riley’s Conference Center. Event organizers are expecting approximately 350 NCOs and spouses to attend.

Several activities will be featured during the ball including the guest speaker, CSM Dwight J. Brown, command sergeant major of Headquarters, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Also featured will be a skit depicting the evolution of the NCO Corps rank structure from the Revolutionary War to the present. Members of the Fort Riley Honor Guard will be wearing Civil War uniforms complete with sabers.

The ball is open to all Fort Riley NCOs, from corporal to command sergeant major. Tickets are expected to be available soon, and may be purchased by contacting senior NCOs in the brigades or tenants.

Anyone needing more information on the ball, may contact G-3, at 239-6042.

AT&T-AFC
5 x 14"
Black Only
The future of long distance is

Devil Brigade heads into battle

Equipment, soldiers checked, double checked before exercise

By Jeremy Heckler
19th PAD

FORT IRWIN, Calif. - The full fury of the Devil Brigade rolled out of Mojavia March 9 in preparation for their first National Training Center battle.

In the days leading up to their departure, soldiers loaded their vehicles and made the final checks to ensure that their mission was a successful one.

“We made sure that everything was combat ready so that we will be able to conduct maneuver operations,” said SSgt. Richard Overby, Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion.

He said they loaded their Mobile Line Charge trailers and performed maintenance on their ACEs they would be ready to fight.

“It was a lot of hard work and took a lot of preparation because every piece of our equipment is mission essential,” said Overby.

“Our main priority here has been maintenance,” said 1st Lt. Jeth Middleton, platoon leader, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor.

Middleton said they have replaced track pads and other equipment to ensure everything is in top condition.

“The desert is a harsh environment and we have to make sure things are clean and well maintained,” said Middleton.

In addition to maintenance, many crews drew equipment and worked security at many of the gates around NTC’s Rotational Unit Bivouac Area known as the Dust Bowl.

In the hours leading to the ride into battle, NCOs and officers made their pre-combat inspections to ensure that everyone has the tools they need to be successful.

“Our platoon leader came through and made sure we were in the proper uniform, had water in our canteens and our ‘snivel’ gear packed as well as all of our equipment,” said Spec. Richard Smith, Troop D, 4th Cavalry.

Supervisors checked not only personal gear, but each piece of equipment down to basic communications.

“Without effective communications, the commanding officer

won’t know what each unit’s status is and can’t provide support to the units that need it,” said Middleton.

All of the inspections help eliminate problems in the field.

“We travel a lot of miles out here and if our driver didn’t top off the tanks before we left and we run out of gas, it can be the downfall of the mission,” said Smith.

One of the final checks involved bore sighting weaponry, ensuring what crews see through their sights hits targets down-range.

“If you can’t hit, no matter how much training you have, you can’t be effective,” said Middleton. “And if you can’t hit anything out there, you’re worthless.”

The soldiers departed the Dust Bowl looking to perform well against the Opposition Force.

“I’m hoping to go out and keep the peace and beat the OPFOR,” said PFC Robert Horton, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor.

“It is pretty exhilarating rolling through the desert with your platoon, firing at the enemy and accomplishing the mission,” said Middleton.



Post/19th PAD

Sgt. Paul Wendell, Spec. Chris Benett and PFC Sammy Nena, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery prepare the unit’s map overlay.

Some devices, insignia approved for wear

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army gave approval earlier this month to allow soldiers who are actively involved in operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle to wear certain insignia and medal devices.

Any reserve component soldier who is involuntarily mobilized in support of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom is eligible to receive the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device, according to the Total Army Personnel Command.

Volunteers are also eligible for the award, officials said, but their orders should cite that duty is in support of the war-on-terror operations.

Also the sleeve insignia for former wartime service and overseas service bars have been approved for wear by soldiers who have been assigned to units that have

participated in ground operations during Operation Enduring Freedom, according to PERSCOM.

In the next revision to the Army Regulation 670-1 it will state that soldiers have to meet the following criteria to wear the sleeve unit insignia:

The soldier must have been assigned to a unit that has actively participated in or been in direct support of ground combat operations against hostile forces during Operation Enduring Freedom, in

which they were exposed to the threat of enemy action or fire, either directly or indirectly.

Also the soldier must be deployed within the Central Command Operations and fall under the command of the commander in chief, CENTCOM, in order qualify to wear sleeve unit insignia.

Fill

FILL

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1 x 3"
Black Only
Palm Sunday

U.S. OPTICAL
2 x 5"
Black Only
pick from 3-13

BRIGGS-WEST LOT
3 x 6"
Black Only
briggs supercenter

FAITH FURNITURE
3 x 13"
Black Only
faith furniture main

Severe weather

Knowing what to do -- half the battle

What you know and learn about weather warnings such as hunderstorms/lightning, heat ndex information and tornados an save lives.

When the Fort Riley Operation Center (FROC) receives a weath-r warning/watch alert from the National Weather Center or the Air Force weather forecasters that ertain to the local area, they will distribute this warning/watch to he Fort Riley community.

The method most used for hese weather warnings is email and the on-post TV, Channel 2. For weather warnings, the emer-gency siren will be sounded, a voice over-ride will happen to all hannels for the on-post TV and he Military Police patrol vehicles will sound the alarm with loud-speakers.

Remember there’s a difference between the weather warning and he watch. The weather watch nforms us that conditions are avorable for severe storms and he weather warning means that he severe storm has been sighted n the Fort Riley area or is headed n our direction. In general, during the Kansas spring and summer nonths, Fort Riley will experi-ence strong winds and severe ighting that is associated with hunderstorms, tornadoes and igh heat index conditions.

When there’s a thunderstorm with lighting the best thing to do s to stay indoors; don’t venture out unless absolutely necessary; lon’t use the telephone; and mplug your TV from the cable outlet or conventional antenna.

If there is a power failure, turn off all electrical appliances and witches before the power comes ack on to avoid damage from a ower surge.

Stay in your car if you are trav-eling. Automobiles offer excel-ent protection because the rubber

tires insulate the car from being grounded.

Increase your awareness, watch for high winds or hail, monitor your radio, and use extreme caution. The most com-mon military activities that result in lighting strikes to soldiers are using field phones, electrical equipment, computers, switch-boards and radios. Stop the use of these items and any refueling operations when there is lighting within five miles.

The best defense for soldiers to protect themselves from thunder-storms/lighting is to avoid high places, hilltops, isolated trees, open spaces, water, wire and the use of electrical equipment. Move to low ground until lighting stops or further instructions are issued.

During the summer months, the National Weather Service uses a “heat index” that alerts the public when combinations of heat and humidity could make hot weather hazardous. The index was pri-marily intended for general public use but it can be useful in evalua-tion of occupational exposures.

When weather conditions war-rant, increased attention must be paid to the prevention of heat related illnesses and the appropri-ate steps taken to reduce the effects of heat and humidity. Heat stress conditions are established by using the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). This index combines shade, air temper-ature, radiation, humidity and wind into a single value to be used as a guide for outdoor activity. When WBGT is measured, and if a hazardous heat stress condition is established, all units will be notified by the FROC. This infor-mation will be provided to the major military headquarters and tenant agencies and directorates

who will further disseminate the heat index categories to the subor-dinate units.

Also Range Control will pro-vide information of the heat index to units in the field. It isn’t neces-sary for the WBGT index to be above 82 degrees for heat injury to occur. Heat stress to the body may cause symptoms in a suscep-tible individual even when the index is well below “safe” WBGT categories.

The WBGT categories are list-ed from 1 thru 5, (1 being the least severe and 5 the most severe), and includes the WBGT index (tem-perature) as well as the non-accli-mated and acclimated work/rest cycles. The WBGT cards can be obtained from the Fort Riley serv-er or the Directorate of Environ-ment and Safety, building 407, main post.

During springtime and summer months tornados are most likely to occur.

The primary hazard with all tornados is wind blown debris. The best defense that we have against tornados is forewarning.

On Fort Riley, the FROC will disseminate tornado warnings to the post.

The tornado warning will be activated only if it is determined that Fort Riley is in an area direct-ly threatened by a tornado.

The housing areas will be noti-fied by a continuous blast of the siren for a three-minute duration. In addition to the sirens, military police cars will drive through the housing areas, with emergency lights activated, announcing over the vehicle’s public address sys-tem that a tornado warning is in effect.

When the siren begins, safe shelters must be occupied imme-diately and vehicular traffic will be curtailed. After the sirens have stopped, the danger of a tornado

striking the area has not decreased. All personnel must remain in a safe shelter until the all clear is announced by the post FROC through the FROC ring down circuits, FM radio net, voice override on the on-post TV, chan-nel 2 and voice announcements from the military police over vehicle loudspeakers.

No one will depart any shel-tered area until the all clear has sounded, no matter what any commercial radio or TV station has announced.

Tune your TV to the on-post TV, channel 2. Tune your radio to one of the following stations for information: Junction City KJCK (AM) 1420, KJCK (FM) 94.5. Manhattan KMAN (AM) 1350, KMKF (FM) 101.5 or KQLA (FM) 104.0. Plan accordingly; avoid driving when there are tor-nado watches and especially warnings.

If the tornado is too close, or you can’t see a clear path to safe-ty, look for a sturdy building like-ly to have an interior room (not a grocery store or anything with a high supported ceiling).

If there are no buildings to hide in, look for a deep ditch that goes under the road, and climb inside and look for something to hang onto.

If there are no buildings or deep ditches, look for an over-hang of any kind to crawl under. If you are in your house (on post), the best place to go for shelter is the first floor bathroom or storage closet.

Remember to stay away from all windows in the house. Remember also, that knowledge is power and you can protect yourself against the effects of severe weather by understanding the hazards and warnings associ-ated with thunderstorm/lighting, heat indexes and tornados.



Courtesy Photo

A tornado looms overhead, threatening those in its path. As tornado season approaches, stay tuned to weather reports.

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Trades Positions

FT. RILEY NATIONAL BANK
2 x 4.5"
Black Only
Deposit Club

Radon is known to occur fre-quently on Fort Riley because of the geographical area in which we are located. DPW, Housing is responsible for testing for the presence of radon in all family housing units. If after testing it is determined that the radon gas is greater than 4 pCi/L, a passive mitigation system is installed to pull the radon gas out of the build-ing.

For our newer homes an exhaust system has already been installed as part of the construc-tion that vents any potential radon gas outside. If you are interested in knowing more about radon gas in the home, you can contact DPW, Housing Office at 239-6936.

Fort Riley is a great place to live and we all need to work together to ensure that the envi-ronmental conditions in our homes are managed properly.

BRIGGS-WEST LOT
3 x 6"
Black Only
briggs, pontiac

Manage environmental conditions at home

One of my highest priorities is providing soldiers and families with quality living conditions. Fort Riley is a unique mix of his-orical and modern construction. For many of us who reside in the istic and older housing on the post, our homes have environ-mental conditions with the poten-tial to affect our quality of life. Many of you have heard about the azards of lead, asbestos, and adon. Many of our homes have ainted walls and ceilings that ontain leaded paint, some have ipes wrapped with asbestos insu-ation in the basements and ehind access doors for plumbing n bathrooms, and some even ave passive radon mitigation systems to remove radon; a col-ress and odorless gas. Each of is has a responsibility to be a esponsible occupant and work with Directorate of Environment nd Safety (DES) and Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Housing o ensure our risk remains low. Key activities you can do are regu-larly removing paint dust from vindow wells in historic homes, reventing children from eating laking and peeling paint, ensur-ing that latex paint is used when ouching up or repainting wall urfaces, not removing radon letectors from living areas, and promptly reporting broken water ipes or flooding to the Housing ervice Order Desk at 784-2599.

Fort Riley tests for lead in our rinking water in conformance

with Kansas regulations. Because the lead found in Fort Riley’s drinking water distribution system is well below the allowable 15 parts per billion, the state has allowed Fort Riley to be on a reduced monitoring program. That reduced monitoring program requires sampling every three years. As a housing occupant you might wonder what you can do to ensure your water remains top quality. If you have been on vaca-tion, or the home has been vacant for a period of time, flush the pipes for at least 30 seconds upon your return. If you have installed a filtration sys-tem be sure to change the filters according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

The DES and DPW are work-ing to ensure that environmental conditions are proactively man-aged and with your help we will manage our housing infrastructure for many years to come. If you

are interested in knowing more about the risks posed by lead and actions you can take contact the DES at 239-8619, or the DPW, Housing Office at 239-6936.

Asbestos is not a problem in our historic homes unless we dis-turb it or allow water to damage it. Housing occupants need to ensure that children are not playing around any wrapped pipes, that boxes are not stacked around wrapped pipes, and we do not hang things off the pipes that can damage the wrapping. The most important thing we can

do to protect ourselves is to report any pipe insulation damage immediately to Housing Service Order Desk at 784-2599. If you are interested in knowing more about asbestos in the home, you can contact either DPW, Housing Office at 239-6936 or the DES, Asbestos Coordinator at 239-6642.

Townhall Message:

By Col. Philip Pope
Garrison Commander

SET
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
new times

E-mail addresses — new addition to NCO-ER

By Marcia Triggs
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON — Soldiers will be required to add one more thing to their noncommissioned officer-evaluation report in an attempt to cut back on the need to return reports with date discrepancies.

Army Knowledge Online e-mail addresses for the rated NCO and the rating officials will now be required on all active-duty NCO-ERs beginning with an end date of March 2002. However, reports that have been completed will not be returned due to missing e-mail addresses, said Sgt. Maj. Ray Everette, NCO-ER policy manager, Total Army Personnel Command.

The requirement was done to top the return of NCO-ERs that have gaps in the reporting period, Everette said. Gaps are when the "from date" on the NCO-ER being sent to the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center for pro-

cessing is not the month after the "end date" of the last report on file. Which usually means that there is a report missing from the file, Everette said.

By adding the AKO e-mail addresses EREC officials will be able to directly contact the rated NCO and his rating officials to inform that there is a discrepancy based on the end date of the last report on file.

In the past, the reports were returned to the soldier's Personnel Support Battalion. Now the report will be accepted for processing, and the rated NCO will have up to 60 days to resolve it, or the gap will be declared as non-rated time on the official military personnel file, Everette said.

"Receiving NCO-ERs with gaps is a major problem," Everette said. "One day there were 50 reports that had gaps, and they all needed to be returned to PSBs for resolution. If we continue to return the reports, the soldier will have two reports instead of

one missing in their OMPF."

Major Command sergeants major have sent rave feedbacks to PERSCOM for the new initiative, said PERSCOM Command Sgt. Maj. William Hoffer.

"Being able to directly contact individuals helps expedite the resolution process," Hoffer said. "This is just one of many automated personnel improvements the Army is making and there are more to come."

The e-mail address for the rated NCO will be placed four spaces after his name on the top back side of the report on page two. The AKO e-mail address up to the @ sign is the only portion to be entered on the report, for example, BUNNY, BUGGS P. buggs.bunny@, is how the address should read.

The e-mail addresses for all three rating officials will be entered on the last line of Part IIId, Areas of Special Interest. Only one space is necessary between addresses and the follow-

ing abbreviations and punctuation should be used: rater:, S/R: for senior rater and Rev: for reviewer.

There will be no exceptions to policy on where the rating officials will place their e-mail address, Everette said.

However, provisions were made for the rating officials who don't have AKO addresses, he added.

"There is not an option to place the e-mail addresses in any other blocks than the one authorized," Everette said.

"Raters may use only the first two lines for areas of special emphasis.

If there are multiple items to list, the rater must decide which ones are the most significant to add on the report." The idea behind adding the AKO e-mail address wasn't to ensure that all NCOs had accounts as directed, Everette said.

The route was chosen since it was a requirement that should have been met by now, he said.

However, rating officials that don't have accounts for whatever reason can use either a unit or personal Internet e-mail address, Everette said. In those cases the full address should be given.

Officials who promote the AKO account said this is exactly what they wanted AKO to be able to do for soldiers.

"Using their AKO email address in this way puts soldiers in the drivers' seat," said Col Robert L. Coxe, chief technology officer, Chief Information Office/G-6.

"This is just one example of what the Army meant when it said AKO was giving soldiers a single, unique e-mail address that would follow them throughout their Army careers.

"I'd like every application in the Army to use the AKO e-mail address, so that wherever soldiers find themselves, they can still obtain timely, relevant information important to their careers."

The latest change to the NCO-

ER is another way senior leaders are trying to take care of soldiers, Everette said.

There are numerous reasons why a soldier departs a command without a report, Everette said.

Then when he goes back to obtain it, no one in the current rating chain meets rating requirements to help out, he added.

It's a significant problem when soldiers' files are not current when its time to promote and make school assignments, he said, based on outdated information.

Officers will not be required to add their e-mail address to their officer evaluation report, according to Lt. Col. William Swisher, OER policy manager, Total Army Personnel Command.

Senior raters are officially responsible for the OER, and they have always been required to submit their e-mail addresses, Swisher said.

Also the officer component has never returned OERs for gap discrepancies, he added.



Post/Heckler

A Paladin self-propelled howitzer is led out of the staging area at the National Training Area, Fort Irwin, Calif., heading for the training area. Members of the 1st Brigade Combat Team are at the NTC for their annual training.

FILL

COOP'S AWARDS
2 x 4"
Black Only
remember us

US ARMY REENLISTMENT-ARM FORCE
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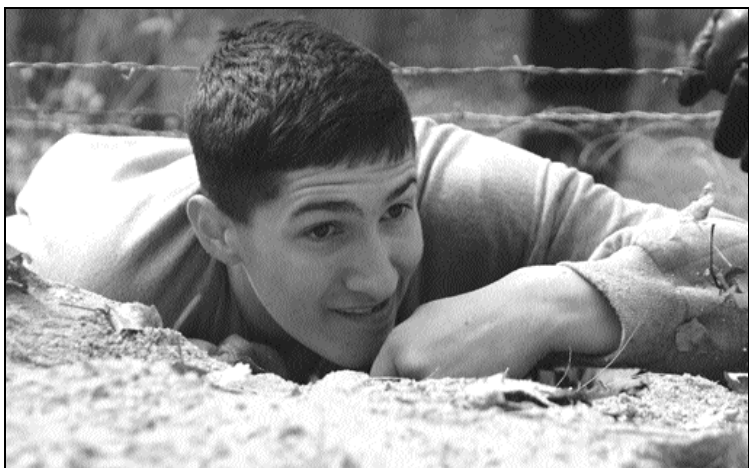


Fort Riley Sports

March 22, 2002

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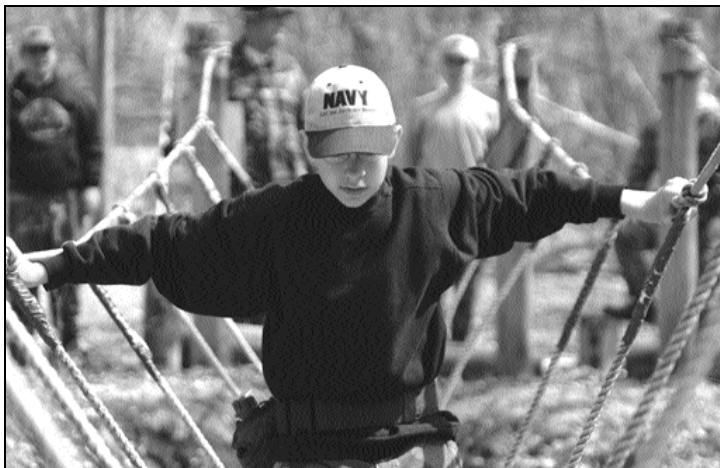
Page 9



Ross Baker, a ninth grader, crawls his way through the Low-Wire obstacle. The cadets eased their way through the obstacle and tried not to snag their clothes on the wire.



Bryan Mitchell attempts to climb up the Chain Ladder obstacle and touch the top. He and others swiftly moved to the top.



Alan Chesnutt braces the ropes while crossing the Three-Rope Bridge obstacle Wednesday. The cadets went through the course with squads and learned a few of the tricks while running through the course.



All photos by Kevin Doheny

Cadet Alan Chesnutt, a ninth grader from Shawnee Heights High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Course, runs through the Run and Dodge obstacle during his trip out to the Obstacle Course Wednesday. The cadets spent a week at Fort Riley for a mini-boot camp.



Naval JROTC cadets attend mini-boot camp

By Kevin Doheny
Staff Writer

Boot Camp. It is a way to mold civilians into soldiers, Marines, airmen, or seamen. Boot camp allows for a person to get adjusted into military life.

For a group of young cadets from Shawnee Heights High School's Junior Reserve Officers Course, getting adjusted was just the beginning.

to develop self-discipline and teamwork in our cadets," said Commander John Persyn. "We try to use an intense environment to make challenges they have to overcome to feel that sense of success they achieve when they overcome them."

"We set this up so we could come to an Army installation and do various things," said Chief Barry Wilt, Naval Science Instructor SHHS. "We show these guys what it is the Army does during the week we are out here."

be a good leader," said Wilt. "We also want the cadets to learn respect, military bearing along with the leadership aspects of the camp."

Wednesday, the cadets ran through the Obstacle Course.

They ran, jumped, climbed and crawled their way to the finish.

"I enjoyed the course a lot," said Cadet Chris Sholar, a ninth grader at SHHS. "It was a challenge for me, but it was fun."

For the cadets, the experience was

Ruby-throated humming birds common to Fort Riley

By **Gibran Suleiman**
Wildlife Biologist

A trip around Fort Riley will show that most places you go you find hummingbirds. Well, what about hummingbirds? No, this is not some new high tech military vehicle; I'm talking about hummingbirds. Every year we receive inquiries as to whether or not we have hummingbirds on Fort Riley. The answer is yes!

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only species that is commonly seen on Fort Riley. Fort Riley sits at the western edge of this bird's range. Hummingbirds are fairly difficult to spot when going about their normal activity. The ruby throated hummingbird is only 3-4 inches long and weighs less than 5 grams, with the females being the larger

of the two sexes. It is more common that you will hear the buzz of their rapid wing beats before you even see them. They do actually have a song, but it is very faint and hard to hear. Even though I spend a lot of time outdoors doing wildlife surveys, I typically see under five hummingbirds per year while completing my field work.

Ruby throated hummingbirds spend the winter months in Central America. They will migrate back to their summer ranges as soon as there are plenty of flowers blooming to provide the high energy nectar for the hungry returning birds. Hummingbirds have an incredibly high metabolism. They typically eat 1.5-3.0 times their own body weight per day! If they go without food for a short period of time they will literally starve to death.

During times when food might not be readily available they are able to conserve energy by slowing down their metabolic rate. This process is called torpor. When a hummingbird enters a state of torpor its heart rate will slow from around 500 beats per minute to just 50 beats per minute. Their body temperature can drop down to 50 degrees. One disadvantage

On the Wildside: News About Nature

of entering this slowed state is that they become vulnerable to predation. It can take up to an hour for a hummingbird to completely come out of a state of torpor.

Since hummingbirds are hard to spot in their natural setting hummingbird feeders are a popular

way to draw in hummers close to your home. Feeders can produce almost non stop action during mid to late summer, with aerial battles being fought frequently between competing birds. Commercial feeders can be purchased at flower and garden stores, retail stores and even most hardware stores. Most feeders come with a sugar mix ready to use. When

that runs out you can brew up your own quite easily. To make your own mix you will add 1/4 cup of sugar to 1 cup of water. It is important to follow the 1:4 ratio. You first heat the water to a boil and then add the sugar. Stir until the sugar has dissolved. There is no need to add red food coloring to the mix since

most feeders have bright red and yellow plastic parts. It is thought that red food coloring could even be harmful to hummingbirds. The mixture can be stored in a clean bottle or container and kept in the refrigerator for up to two weeks. It is important to keep your feeders clean and to change the mixture every three to four days since the sugar will ferment in the heat of the summer. Hummingbirds also eat small insects and spiders. One popular way to attract insects for hummingbirds to eat is to hang a mesh bag and put banana peels and part of a peach in it. This will attract plenty of fruit flies for the hummers to pick off.

Another way to turn your backyard into a hummingbird haven is to plant certain species of plants. Honeysuckle is one of the most popular plants people use to

attract hummers. Having several types of hummingbird friendly plants is the best way to attract them and also different types of butterflies. Some types of plants that work well are: azaleas, butterfly bush, columbine, beard tongue, and petunias.

A hummingbird feeder is a very inexpensive way to make the area surrounding your house more attractive to wildlife. Hummingbirds are very entertaining to watch and are relatively unafraid of humans. By planting hummingbird friendly plants not only will you be doing the birds a favor, they will also add to the look of your yard. If you have any further questions about hummingbirds or other outdoor related questions, please call the DES Conservation Division at (785) 239-6211.

Fort Riley plans annual races to highlight Earth Day, environmental issues

By **Carin Richardson**
DES

On April 20, 1970, more than 20 million Americans celebrated the first Earth Day. Over thirty years later, 300 million people worldwide are expected to celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day has become an international event demonstrating concern and mobilizing support for the environment. Earth Day is the annual call for public attention towards environmental stewardship.

The Directorate of Environment and Safety as Fort Riley's lead environmental organization holds an annual Earth Day

event called Ol' Bill's Earth Day Stampede for soldiers, their families and the surrounding communities. The Fifth Annual Ol' Bill's Earth Day Stampede will be held April 20, in conjunction with the Third Annual Outdoor Recreation Open House. The events include a 5K, 20 pound Rucksack Unit Challenge Race, a 10K Race, a 2-Mile Adults and Kids Bike Rally, and a 5-Mile Volksmarch.

All the events will begin at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 9011, except the Volksmarch, which will begin at Sports U.S.A., Bldg. 2600.

The 5K, 20 pound Rucksack Unit Challenge Race is open to one five-per-

son team from the same battalion or separate company. The rucksack race begins at 8 a.m., so arrive one hour early to register and pick up your 20 pound bag of sand.

The 10K Race is open to all runners, limited to a maximum of 300 runners. Awards will be presented to all first-, second-, and third-place male and female runners in the following age groups: 17 and under, 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, and 56 and above. The 10K Race will begin at 8:30 a.m., arrive one hour early to register. Pre-registration fees for the 10K Race (through April 15) are \$12, which includes a free T-shirt. During the pre-registration period, additional T-

shirts (\$12) and commemorative mugs (\$12.50) can be ordered. After April 15, the registration fee, additional T-shirts, and commemorative mugs will be \$15 each.

The 2-Mile Adults and Kids Bike Rally is open to all ages. Prizes will be presented to the top three individuals who have the best decorated bikes. All bike decorations should support the Earth Day Theme: "Protecting Our Freedom...Preserving the Environment." This event is not considered a race, but a family event. The bike rally begins at 11 a.m.

The 5-Mile Volksmarch is open to all walkers. During the 5-Mile Volksmarch, walkers can play the Earth Day Trivia

Quiz. A brochure listing questions about Earth Day and environmental issues will be given to each participant at the start of the walk. The answers to the quiz will be found on signs located along the route. Participants who answer all the questions correctly and complete the 5-mile walk will receive giveaways. The 5-Mile Volksmarch will be open from 1200 - 1500.

Pre-registration (through April 15) for the 5K, 20 lb. Rucksack Unit Challenge Race; the 2-Mile Adults and Kids Bike Rally; and the 5-Mile Volksmarch is suggested, but not required.

For more information, call 239-6493 or 239-2172.

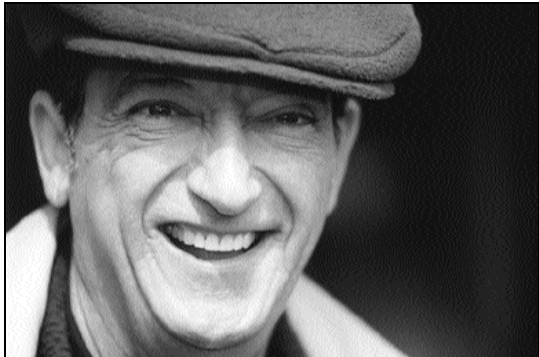
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Fort Riley Community

March 22, 2002

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Page 11



Post/Skidmore

Retired Army NCO and Department of the Army Civilian Mike Cardella ran in the St. Patrick's Day Two-Mile Road Race and placed first in his age group with a time of 18:03.



Post/Skidmore

James Eakins, a DA civilian at IACH, displayed his colors.

St. Patrick's Day Local parade promotes patriotism

Green hats, green hair and green painted faces lined Moro Street in Aggieville Saturday morning as hundreds of spectators watched the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

Kids especially seemed thrilled with the parade, not because of any particular deep meaning for the reason the

parade exists, but for the candy that was thrown from each float, car and almost every entry in the parade.

But it wasn't just a day for the green. The sounds and sights of patriotism were everywhere.

Kids waved American flags as each entry passed. Some entries in the

parade displayed their own flags and even some in the crowd wore their flags with pride.

James Eakins, a Department of the Army civilian at Irwin Army Community Hospital was one.

"It's just a good day to be an American," said Eakins.



Post/Skidmore

Leading the St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday was the Fort Riley Color Guard from HHC, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, The Fort Riley Honor Guard and a Humvee provided by the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.

Information, Ticketing and Reservations

Information, Ticketing & Registration is located in the Leisure Travel Center, Bldg. 6918 (across from the PX) and has current information and tickets to surrounding area attractions, dinner heater, concerts, stage productions and movie theatres. Before making vacation plans, check out the maps and travel brochures from across the U.S. ITR also assists in group travel plans.

Active/retired military, Department of the Army Civilian and family members are encouraged to visit.

VISA and AE. Prices are subject to change.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. closed on Sundays and holidays.

Oldies 98.5's Rock 'N Roll Revival IV—Certainly the music is some of the most memorable from the 50/60s era - and some of the most popular stars of the era are coming to Salina. Bobby Vee, The Contours, Jewel Akens', Don & Juan & Kathy Young brings Back N Roll to the Ritz on Saturday, March 23, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10.00. Call 781-2345 for more info.

an evening show at matinee ticket price. Buy several as they can be used within a year of purchase.

Breckenridge Ski Resort—With over 171 registered buildings, Breckenridge boasts one of Colorado's largest historical districts. Breckenridge is consistently rated as one of the most exciting mountain resorts in the country. Visitors can choose from outstanding fine cuisine restaurants, cozy bistros, and outrageous dance clubs. With over 300

Golf & Ski Ranch and Vail. Discounted military lift tickets are now available.

Armed Forces Vacation Club—Resort condominium rentals for only \$234 per week throughout the U.S. and overseas locations. How about Florida or California? Discount attraction tickets are also available for both destinations. Call ITR for information.

ITR Cruises—Thirty six military discounts and bargain cruises.

The 40 hours of training included lectures, video presentations, class discussions and tests. Seventeen Army managers earned their CLIA certification as accredited cruise counselors, which will allow them to sell cruises to members of their military communities from their Information, Ticketing and Reservation offices.

Authorized patrons can start taking advantage of special military discounts and bargain cruises. Call ITR, Bldg. 6918, for more info.

plan your next get-a-way.

Sol Vista Golf and Ski Ranch—Set high in the Colorado Rockies, Sol Vista Golf and Ski Ranch evokes the kind of Western charm and small-town friendliness that our guests truly cherish. Sol Vista has Colorado's second-largest night skiing acreage. There's more to winter at Sol Vista than just skiing! They have a wide array of fun-filled activities for everyone to enjoy — and more fun-filled activities to come.

Call ITR, Bldg. 6918, for more info.

Self-respect secret of success for 24th Inf. Div. soldier



Cpl. Felicia Walker

By Karen E. Hinkle
K-State Intern

Females in the military can face many difficulties, but Cpl. Felicia Walker, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), doesn't let anything get in her way.

Walker grew up in a medium-size family from Phoenix, Ariz., with a long-standing military history. Since her great-great-grandfather first joined the Marines, at least one family member per generation has followed in his footsteps and joined the military.

In terms of Walker's immediate family, she is the only one of her siblings and cousins to enter the service, and she surprised her family by becoming their first female military member.

"I guess I was always such a bookworm," Walker said. "It was a big shock for everyone."

Aside from family tradition, Walker joined the Army for several reasons, including opportunities to attend college, travel overseas, receive on-the-job training and serve her country. She also wanted to find some life direction.

Walker's first assignment was Germany, where she took every chance she had to travel. She also met her husband there. She said she finds being married to another service member rewarding, but

she admits it has some disadvantages as well.

"I know what it's like (for him) because I can put myself in his shoes," Walker said. "I've been there myself."

But she's also had to spend

lot of heated discussions. He has come to understand that I am a soldier as much as he is," she said.

Walker said she thinks that many military women feel like they do not have a place in the service.



some time convincing her husband that her role in the Army isn't any different just because she's female.

"My husband and I have had a

However, she also said that because more women are now in the military, it is becoming easier for women to be in the service.

"We (women) have a lot to

contribute," she said.

Walker's contributions fall mainly in the role of the post sergeant major's administrative assistant, filtering problems and arranging his schedule.

Her office serves as the liaison between enlisted and civilian soldiers, and she often works with high-ranking officers. Her position requires her to work with all kinds of different people and personalities.

"This office would not survive without her," said CSM Richard E. Hearron, command sergeant major, 24th Inf. Div. (M) and Fort Riley.

As part of her administrative duties, Walker's office also oversees the Sgt. Audie Murphy and Installation NCO and Soldier of the Quarter boards in addition to day-to-day office functions.

"You can always count on Cpl. Walker to accomplish the mission," said Jeannie Noss, secretary for Brig. Gen. David Gross in the Office of the Assistant Divi-

sion Commander (Maneuver).

Walker said her success comes down to self-respect: have pride in yourself, in the work that you do and in the job that you do. It also helps Walker to remember the freedoms and rights she fights to protect.

Once Walker finishes her time in the military, she would like to open a catering business.

She is currently working on a restaurant and hotel management degree.

Walker would also eventually like to start her own family. Unfortunately for Hearron, that means Walker will leave Fort Riley in the future.

"If and when she does leave, there will be some very big shoes to fill," Hearron said. "I do not look forward to that day."

Editor's Note: This month, the Fort Riley Post will highlight female soldiers recommended by their chains of command.

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Breast-feeding classes

The Women and Infant Care Center of Irwin Army Community Hospital offers free Breast-feeding classes on the third Tuesday of each month. A dietician will address the nutritional requirements for breast-feeding moms and a Breast-feeding Educator will talk about the advantages of breast-feeding and how to prepare for successful nursing. Breast-feeding techniques, troubleshooting advice, and where to find support will also be offered. Classes are held in the Obstetrics classroom on the third floor from 1- 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and walk-ins are welcome. For more information call Capt. Diana Seuss at 239-7434.

Child car seat inspections

Child car seat inspections are available through Irwin Army Community Hospital's (IACH) Community Health Nursing. Assistance with correct placement and positioning of your child's car seat and information are part of the inspection. Active duty uniform service members, their families, retired military, and DoD civilians are eligible for this service. There is no fee.

Car Seat Inspection appointments are available Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m.- noon. Inspections will take place in the IACH parking area. To schedule a car seat inspection please call Community Health Nursing, at 239-7323.

Diabetes Education Class

The diabetes education class will be held April 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Nutrition Care Division Classroom at IACH.

This is a four to five hour class that will cover diabetes types and symptoms; hyperglycemia; nutrition; exercise; glucose monitoring; oral diabetes medication; insulin therapy, and standards of medical care for diabetic patients.

To enroll in the class, patients must have a referral from their primary care manager or a community-screening program. Patients who have a referral for the class are to call the local TRI-CARE Service Center at (785) 784-1200 or call toll free 1-800-874-9378.

New OB Class

The New OB Class is held every Tuesday morning, from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., in Ward 3B of Irwin Army Community Hospital.

A positive pregnancy test is required before scheduling your attendance of the class.

Spouses, or men and women who are the support persons for the pregnant soldier or military dependent are welcome to attend.

Expectant mothers will be introduced to the IACH OB/GYN staff members; fill out their OB charts, review medical and genetic history with an OB/GYN staff member, and will also be provided information on available resources offered on the Fort Riley post or local communities. The new class is not a labor and delivery class.

To schedule your attendance of the class, call the TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200 or dial the toll-free number 1-888-874-9378.

Prenatal classes

The Women Infant Care Center of Irwin Army Community Hospital is offering a new series of prenatal classes, "The Gift of Motherhood" on April 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the third floor classroom.

Expectant mothers, between their 12th and 40th week of pregnancy are eligible to attend.

The prenatal classes are free and each participant will receive a personal copy of the book, "The Gift of Motherhood" to take home.

Expectant mothers are asked to bring their spouse, significant other or birth coach. The class is limited to 20 participants.

For more information, call Capt. Diana Seuss at 239-7434.

To register for "The Gift of Motherhood" prenatal classes, call the Fort Riley TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200 or toll free is 1-888-874-9378.

Fort Riley teen competes for Boy, Girls Club youth of year

A Fort Riley Teen competed for the Kansas Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year Contest March 8, in Topeka, Kansas.

Victor Arias Jr., son of SSgt. Victor and Teresa Arias, Fort Riley, was nominated to represent the Fort Riley Teen Center's Boys and Girls Club to compete for Youth of the Year.

The criteria Victor had to meet for this honor consisted of community service involvement, contributions to home and family,

spiritual values, school involvement to include grades, involvement with the Fort Riley Teen Center's Boys and Girls Club and life goals. He was required to write two essays, one explaining what the Teen Center means to him and one to express why a post-high school education is important to him.

Victor's community service, volunteering, Teen Center involvement and church involvement were easy to see. He is heavily involved in the Character

Counts program, America's Promise Passport, Peer tutoring and mentoring at the Teen Center. He carries a 3.3 G.P.A. as a freshman at Junction City High School, taking mostly advanced placement classes. He played freshman football this past fall, and is currently playing Junction City High School baseball. After Victor met the criteria to advance as a finalist and go to Topeka, he was required to go through a rigorous interview with a panel of four judges. This interview lasted

approximately 30 minutes, and then he was required to give a three-minute speech at the Youth of the Year Dinner. His speech was heart warming and sincere as he explained what the Fort Riley Teen Center's Boys and Girls Club meant to him.

Victor did not win the Youth of the Year competition, but made it as a finalist and was presented with a Boys and Girls Club plaque as finalist for Kansas State Youth of the Year from Secretary of State of Kansas Ron Thornburgh.

Normandy Theater

Today:

7:30 p.m.

Snow Dogs

PG)

99 Minutes

Saturday:

7:30 p.m.

Collateral Damage

(R)

115 Minutes

Sunday:

7:30 p.m.

I Am Sam

(PG13)

132 Minutes

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